



IGF 2021 IGF Best Practice Forums Template

[draft for internal use]

- Proposals for the BPF should be submitted or seconded by at least one MAG member.
- MAG members submitting or seconding a proposal are expected to take on the role of MAG Facilitator should the MAG select the topic for a BPF.
- Proposals can be for new topics or topics that build on previous BPF work.
- Proposals should be submitted to
- Deadline **18 January 2021**

IGF Best Practice Forums - definition and purpose

Best Practice Forums were introduced in 2014 as part of the intersessional programme to complement the IGF community's activities and develop more tangible outputs to 'enhance the impact of the IGF on global Internet governance and policy'.¹

BPFs offer unique platforms for multistakeholder discussion on topics relevant to the future of the Internet, with the aim of facilitating dialogue and collecting emerging and existing practices to address specific issues or themes. BPFs foster a common understanding of the concrete policy challenges stakeholders may address in order to contribute to achieving the Internet policy goal the BPF is focussing on. The objective is not to develop new policies or practices, but rather to collect existing good practices, share positive and negative experiences, and flag challenges that require additional multistakeholder dialogue and/or require the attention of policymakers, including in specified decision-making bodies.

BPFs typically work on less controversial topics for which the debate has sufficiently matured to make way for some general consensus in the community and the focus of discussions has shifted to implementation. Like other intersessional activities, BPF outcomes are designed to become robust resources, to serve as inputs into other pertinent forums, and to grow and evolve over time.

BPFs are in nature open, bottom-up, and collective processes. Their open and transparent working approaches aim at encouraging and gathering broad stakeholder input and their outcomes are intended to be community-driven, bottom-up, and a true reflection of the multistakeholder nature of the IGF's intersessional activities. Within these general principles BPFs have the freedom to define and delineate the parameters of their work in consultation with their respective multistakeholder communities; to define their own methodologies; and to tailor their work to the requirements of their theme's specific needs and requirements.

¹ This intersessional programme was designed in accordance with the recommendations of a [2012 report](#) by the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)'s Working Group on IGF Improvements.

Proposal for a 2021 Best Practice Forum

Title

Names of at least two Facilitators (at least one of which is a MAG member)

Background

Indicate the relevance and suitability of the topic for a Best Practice Forum, and the relevance of this BPF for the wider multistakeholder Internet governance discussion, different stakeholder groups and/or decision-making bodies.

Description:

Topics covered, proposed objectives and focus of the BPF.

Engagement and outreach plan

This should mention the anticipated engagement from different parts of the multistakeholder community, including the names of organisations which have signalled a desire to participate, and intended outreach to attract further involvement in the work of the BPF. Please clearly indicate confirmed commitments.

Draft Template

Criteria for the assessment of BPF Proposals

When discussing and assessing the different proposals, the MAG may use the following quantitative and qualitative metrics. To allow a swift selection process, it is recommended that proposals fully address the following elements. (a more detailed description of the metrics can be found in the [BPF on BPFs report](#), chapter D, section c)

Relevance and suitability of the topic

- Is the topic mature and does it allow for the collection of best practices?
- In what ways, is it still relevant and useful to collect best practices on this topic?
- Which are -in the global agenda- ongoing negotiations or debates or problems going on, which is their timeframe, and how could an IGF contribution be useful and appropriate.

Community of interest

- Will there be sufficient community interest and stakeholder involvement?
- Description of the community of interest and relevant stakeholder groups
- List of organisations, institutions, and networks they intend to invite or which have already committed to participate

Metrics to evaluate the functioning of completed BPFs

- minimum of 3 open virtual meetings;
- an active BPF mailing list (a minimum number of subscribers, a minimum amount of traffic);
- the BPF process is documented on the IGF website;
- a draft BPF output was published ahead of the IGF annual meeting, with the possibility for the community to provide feedback;
- a BPF session was organised at the annual IGF meeting;
- the BPF has published a final BPF output report

Expected output and contribution to IG discussions and decision-making processes

- BPF objective(s)
 - Involvement of relevant organisations (topic leads or institutions)
 - Involvement of experts and expert networks
 - Enlarging the IGF footprint across sectors and regions
 - Immediate relevance of BPF work for ongoing discussions elsewhere
 - Building common ground
 - Longer term contribution to IG(F) / BPF's ripple effect
 - Planned Interaction and synergies with other IGF activities (including DCs, NRIs, Main sessions)
-